AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Specification:

In response to the Official Action and in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(c), please enter the following rewritten paragraphs from the specification of the instant application.

Please amend the paragraphs [0013], [0026], [0045] and [0049] as indicated below:

[0013]   According to a preferred embodiment, the instant invention will begin by providing the user with a selection of templates that have been previously stored within the photo device. These templates might consist of graphical information (e.g., a digital image) or data (e.g., parameters of a digital transformation). The graphical templates might show famous people or locations, wherein a portion of each template has been left blank or transparent. These sorts of templates might be provided in an assortment of different sizes and colours. The templates that ~~contains~~ contain parameter values would be most useful where it was desired to apply a mathematical transformation to the digital image. For example, the stored parameter values might signal that an effect like a mirror-image line should be applied, where the equation of the imaginary line that defines the transformation would be stored as parameters in a template. As another example, a morphological transformation might be specified by storing parameter values in the template which define the portion of the digital image which is to be morphed to fit a predefined shape.

[0026]   Figure **5** depicts the display screen/preview screen of a typical device suitable for use with the instant invention, wherein only the subject is displayed without ~~the~~ any superimposed templates.

[0045]   As a next preferred step **920**, after the user is satisfied with the template selection he or she will begin to align the template as displayed in the preview screen with the photographic subject. In this step the user will be able to make any sort of adjustment allowed by the camera including adjusting the aperture, focus, zoom, orientation (e.g., landscape or portrait) and distance to the subject. The user can adjust the image displayed in the preview screen until he or she is satisfied with the result. Once the user is satisfied, he or she can capture the combined image by pressing the shutter button or otherwise ~~signalling~~ signaling to the camera to take the picture (step **925**). The camera will then preferably store the combined image (step **930**) as is conventionally done. Of course, the image ~~might~~ will be stored in the RAM of the camera, in local non-volatile memory (e.g., non-volatile RAM or local hard disk), transmitted via wired or wireless communications to a remote location for storage, etc. If the user so desires, another picture can be taken with the same template choice (steps **935** and **915**). Alternatively, the user might elect to change the template and take additional photographs (the "YES" branch of step **940**). Clearly, many variations of this approach might be utilized in practice and those of ordinary skill in the art will be readily able to ~~device~~ devise them.

[0049]   In the event that the user wishes to select an additional template to combine with the one or more templates already chosen (the "YES" branch of decision node **1045**), the program then preferably provides the user with a choice of recommended additional templates (step **1020**). In the preferred embodiment, at least some of the recommended companion templates will have been selected in advance by the author of the software program. As an example, and referring once again to Figures 4 ~~thorough~~ through 8, given that the user has selected a "George Washington" graphic template, additional graphic templates might be suggested to the user which would be specifically suited to accompany this choice. Examples of such companion templates could include backgrounds that show a cherry tree, a picture of the Washington Monument, etc., each of which would have been specifically designed so as to occupy the space outside of the portrait graphic and designed so as to not obscure the transparent regions of the first-selected template. Preferably, the user will be allowed to determine template priority (i.e., which template is "on top", which is next "below", etc.) at this same time.